

*CLAIM AMENDMENTS*

1. (Currently Amended) A drive circuit for driving a power semiconductor device, said circuit comprising:

a control means for controlling switching of the power semiconductor device according to a turn-on instruction or turn-off instruction sent ~~thereto~~ to the power semiconductor device from outside said drive circuit;

a controllable variable value detection means for detecting ~~an amount~~ value of variable controlled by said control means and applied to ~~said the~~ said power semiconductor device during a predetermined time period when said control means receives a turn-on instruction; and

~~an~~ abnormality detection means for monitoring the controllable ~~variable amount~~ value detected by said controllable variable value detection means ~~so as~~ to detect occurrence of an abnormality in ~~said the~~ said power semiconductor device.

2. (Currently Amended) The drive circuit according to Claim 1, wherein said controllable variable value detection means detects, as the ~~controllable~~ value of the variable ~~amount~~ controlled by said control means, ~~either one~~ one of a control voltage that appears at a control terminal of ~~said the~~ said power semiconductor device, a current that flows in the control terminal of ~~said the~~ said power semiconductor device, and ~~an amount~~ quantity of charge supplied to the control terminal of ~~said the~~ said power semiconductor device.

3. (Currently Amended) The drive circuit according to Claim 1, wherein said controllable variable value detection means detects the ~~controllable~~ value of the variable ~~amount~~ controlled by said control means and applied to ~~said the~~ said power semiconductor device during a transition time period that begins immediately after said control means has received a turn-on instruction and ends before a control voltage that appears at a control terminal of ~~said the~~ said power semiconductor device reaches a predetermined voltage value.

4. (Currently Amended) The drive circuit according to Claim 1, wherein said controllable variable value detection means detects the ~~controllable~~ value of the variable ~~amount~~ controlled by said control means and applied to ~~said the~~ said power semiconductor device during a transition time period that begins at expiration of a predetermined time interval after said control means has received a turn-on instruction and ends before a control voltage that appears at a control terminal of ~~said the~~ said power semiconductor device reaches a predetermined voltage value.

5. (Currently Amended) The drive circuit according to Claim 1, wherein, when said

abnormality detection means detects occurrence of an abnormality, said control means causes ~~said~~ the power semiconductor device to make a transition to an off state.

6. (Currently Amended) The drive circuit according to Claim 5, wherein, when said abnormality detection means detects the occurrence of ~~the~~ an abnormality, said control means causes ~~said~~ the power semiconductor device to make a transition to an off state at a lower speed than ~~that~~ the speed at which said control means causes ~~said~~ the power semiconductor device to make a transition to an off state according to a turn-off instruction.

7. (Currently Amended) A drive circuit for driving a power semiconductor device, said circuit comprising:

~~a~~ control means for controlling switching of the power semiconductor device according to a turn-on instruction or turn-off instruction sent ~~thereto~~ to the power semiconductor device from outside said drive circuit;

~~a~~ controllable variable value detection means for detecting ~~an amount~~ value of variable controlled by said control means and applied to ~~said~~ the power semiconductor device; and

~~an~~ abnormality detection means for monitoring the ~~controllable~~ value of the variable ~~amount~~ detected by said controllable variable value detection means ~~so as~~ to detect occurrence of an abnormality in ~~said~~ the power semiconductor device, and for validating ~~the~~ detection ~~result~~ of the occurrence of ~~the~~ an abnormality, only during a predetermined time period after said control means has received a turn-on instruction.